



- 1. A method of treating cartilage damaged from a cartilagenous disorder comprising contacting the cartilage with an effective amount of an intagonist to IL-17 or LIF.
- 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the IL-17 or LIF antagonist is an anti-IL-17 or anti-LIF antibody.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cartilage is articular cartilage.
- 10 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cartilagenous disorder is a degenerative cartilagenous disorder.
  - 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the degenerative cartilagenous disorder is arthritis.
  - 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.
  - 7. The method of Claim 4, wherein the degenerative cartilagenous disorder is osteoarthritis.
  - 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cartilage is contained in a mammal and the effective amount is a therapeutically effective amount.
  - 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the antagonist to IL-17 or LIF is administered by direct injection into an afflicted cartilagenous region or joint.
  - 10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the cartilagenous disorder results from injury.
  - 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the type of injury is a microdamage or blunt trauma, a chondral fracture, an osteochondral fracture or damage to meniscus, tendon or ligament.
- 30 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the injury is the result of excessive mechanical stress or other biomechanical instability resulting from a sports injury or obesity.
  - 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the IL-17 or LIF antagonist further comprises a carrier, excipient or stabilizer.
  - 14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the contacting is combined with a standard surgical technique.
  - 15. The method of Claim 1 wherein the IL-17 or LIF antagonist is combined with an effective amount

35

C) El:

(0 (U

[J

5

() 13 ()

(0 (1) (0

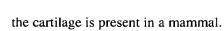
۲IJ

LJ

25

35

- 16. The method of <u>Claim</u> 15 wherein the cartilage agent is selected from the group consisting of a peptide growth factor, a catabolism antagonist, an osteo-factor, a synovial factor and an anti-inflammatory factor.
- 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the peptide growth factor is selected from the group consisting of IGFs, PDGF-AA, PDGF-BB, BMPs, FGFs, TGF-βs and EGF.
- 10 18. The method of Claim 16 wherein the catabolism antagonist is selected from the group consisting of IL-1ra, NO inhibitors, ICE inhibitors, agents which inhibit the activity of IL-6, IL-8, IFN-γ, TNF-α, tetracyclines and variants thereof, inhibitors of apoptosis, MMP inhibitors, aggrecanase inhibitors and inhibitors of serine and cysteine proteinases.
  - 19. The method of Claim 16 wherein the osteo-factor is selected from the group consisting of bisphosphonates and osteoprotegerin.
  - 20. The method of Claim 16 wherein the anti-inflammatory factor is selected from the group consisting of anti-TNF-α, soluble TNF receptors, IL-1ra, soluble IL-1 receptors, IL-4, IL-10 and IL-13.
  - 21. A method of preventing cartilage damage caused by a cartilagenous disorder comprising contacting the cartilage with an effective amount of an IL-17 or LIF antagonist.
  - 22. The method of Claim 21 wheten the IL-17 and LIF antagonists are anti-IL-17 and anti-LIF antibodies.
  - 23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the cartilage is articular cartilage.
- 24. The method of Claim 21, wherein the cartilagenous disorder is a degenerative cartilagenous 30 disorder.
  - 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the degenerative cartilagenous disorder is arthritis.
  - 26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.
  - 27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis.
  - 28. The method of Claim 21 wherein the effective amount is a therapeutically effective amount and



215/5

10

() () ()

to Tu

Ļ↓ 20

į

() ()

- 29. The method of Claim 28 wherein the L-17 and LIF antagonist is administered by direct injection into an afflicted cartilagenous region or joint.
- 30. The method of Claim.21 wherein the cartilagenous disorder results from injury.
- 31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the type of injury is a microdamage or blunt trauma, a chondral fracture, an osteochondral fracture or damage to meniscus, tendon or ligament.
- 32. The method of Claim 30, wherein the injury is the result of excessive mechanical stress or other biomechanical instability resulting from a ports injury or obesity.
- 33. The method of Claim 21, wherein the effective amount of IL-17 or LIF antagonist further comprises a carrier, excipient or stabilizer.
- 34. The method of Claim 21, wherein the contacting is combined with a standard surgical technique.
- 35. The method of Claim 21, wherein the III-17 or LIF antagonist is combined with an effective amount of at least one cartilage agent.
- 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the cartilage agent is selected from the group consisting of a peptide growth factor, a catabolism antagonist, an osteo-factor, a synovial factor and an anti-inflammatory factor.
- 37. A method of treating a mammal suffering from a cartilagenous disorder, comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist to IL-17 or LIF.
- 38. The method of Claim 37, where the IL-17 and LIF antagonists are anti-IL-17 and anti-LIF antibodies.
- 39. The method of Claim 37, wherein the cartilagenous disorder is a degenerative cartilagenous disorder.
- 35 40. The method of Claim 39, wherein the degenerative cartilagenous disorder is arthritis.
  - 41. A composition of matter comprising an effective amount of IL-17 and LIF antagonist.



- 42. The composition of Claim 41, wherein the IL-17 and LIF antagonists are anti-IL17 and anti-LIF antibodies.
- 43. The composition of Claim 41 further comprising an effective amount of a cartilage agent.
- 44. The composition of Claim 41 further comprising a carrier, excipient or stabilizer.